February 1, 2025

Anderson Cooper

Personal Life

- **Early Life**: Anderson Hays Cooper was born on June 3, 1967, in New York City. He is the son of writer Wyatt Emory Cooper and artist and heiress Gloria Vanderbilt. His maternal grandparents were millionaire equestrian Reginald Claypoole Vanderbilt and socialite Gloria Morgan Vanderbilt.

- **Family Tragedies**: Anderson experienced significant family losses early in life. His father died during heart surgery when Anderson was 10 years old, and his brother Carter committed suicide in 1988.

- **Education**: He attended Yale University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in political science in 1989.

- **Relationships**: Anderson came out as gay in 2012 and has been a prominent advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. He was in a long-term relationship with Benjamin Maisani, with whom he co-parents two sons, Wyatt and Sebastian.

- **Children**: Anderson welcomed his first son, Wyatt Morgan, in 2020 via surrogate, and his second son, Sebastian Luke, in 2022.

Professional Life

- **Early Career**: After graduating from Yale, Anderson began his career as a fact-checker for

Channel One News. He traveled to war-torn regions to shoot footage, which helped him transition to a correspondent role.

- **ABC News**: In 1995, he joined ABC News as a correspondent and later took on various roles, including co-anchor and reality game show host.

- **CNN**: Anderson joined CNN in 2001 and became the anchor of "Anderson Cooper 360°" in 2003. He gained national attention for his on-the-ground reporting during major events like Hurricane Katrina and the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

- **60 Minutes**: Since 2006, he has also served as a correspondent for CBS's "60 Minutes".

- **Awards and Recognition**: Anderson has received numerous accolades for his journalism,

including 18 Emmy Awards, two Peabody Awards, and an Edward Murrow Award.

- **Author**: He has co-authored several books, including "The Rainbow Comes and Goes: A Mother and Son on Life, Love, and Loss" with his mother, Gloria Vanderbilt, and "Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty" with Katherine Howe.

Anderson Cooper's life is marked by his dedication to journalism, his advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights, and his role as a father.